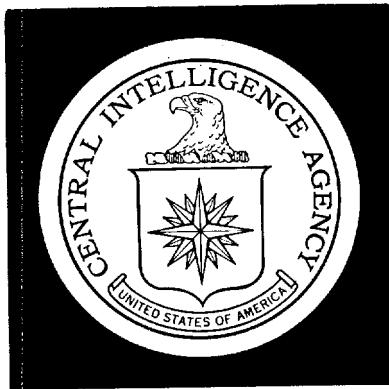


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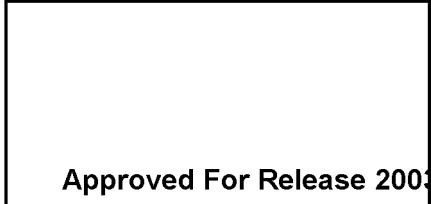
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NOTE

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~~YUGOSLAVIA-ITALY: THE YUGOSLAVS ARE AGAIN  
PRESSING ITALY TO CONSIDER BILATERAL MILITARY COOP-  
ERATION.~~

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[REDACTED] DEFENSE MINISTER LJUBICIC HAS REAFFIRMED HIS LATE APRIL COMMENT TO THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR THAT ROME AND BELGRADE HAD "COMMON DEFENSE NEEDS" AND SUGGESTED THAT THE TIME MAY HAVE COME FOR COOPERATION IN THE MILITARY FIELD. ANOTHER HIGH-LEVEL YUGOSLAV MILITARY OFFICIAL TOOK A SIMILAR TACK IN A DISCUSSION WITH THE ITALIAN NAVAL ATTACHE IN BELGRADE. TITO APPRECIATES THAT OVERTURES FOR MILITARY COOPERATION WITH A MEMBER OF NATO RISK ANTAGONIZING THE USSR, BUT HE APPARENTLY IS SEEKING TO CULTIVATE NATO SYMPATHIES AS A HEDGE AGAINST FUTURE SOVIET PRESSURES. ALTHOUGH TITO DOES NOT APPEAR TO PERCEIVE ANY IMMEDIATE DANGER OF A SOVIET INVASION, HE IS TAKING STEPS TO PREPARE HIS PEOPLE FOR FURTHER DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW.

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